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PATENT

Docket No. 150.01180101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Brian A. VAARTSTRA) Group Art Unit: 2814

Serial No.: 10/032,049)

Examiner: Thao Le

Confirmation No.: 5131)

Filed: December 21, 2001)

For: METHODS FOR PLANARIZATION OF METAL-CONTAINING SURFACES USING
HALOGENS AND HALIDE SALTS# 98 Aut
M. Brunson
s/c 3/12/03RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX AF
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 11, 2002, please consider and enter the following remarks:

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 11, 2002 has been received and reviewed. The pending claims are claims 1-53. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,290,736 (Evans).

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness . . . there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." M.P.E.P. §706.02(j). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.